

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A microtiter plate comprising a plurality of wells of a rigid material selected from the group consisting of glass, polystyrene, polyacryl, polyamide, polyethylene, polypropylene, acrylate butadiene styrene (ABS), ~~Barnox~~, polyvinylchloride (PVC), nylon ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) ~~polyvinylchloride~~ polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and combinations thereof, wherein each well is a well of a regular microtiter plate wherein, each well is separated from an adjacent well by a well-dividing wall, wherein the bottom of each well is comprised of a (semi-)permeable membrane filter capable of directly or indirectly binding an analyte, wherein the wells are grouped in one or more clusters, each cluster comprising at least two wells; wherein said clusters are separated from adjacent clusters by a cluster dividing wall and wherein at least part of the well dividing wall is lower than the cluster dividing wall or wherein the well dividing wall contains at least one passageway connecting at least two adjacent wells within a cluster, said passageway being at a distance from the bottom of the well and at least partly below the top of the well.
2. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein each cluster of containers comprises at least n^2 containers, wherein n is an integer.
3. (Currently Amended) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein said membrane filter comprises polyvinylidene fluoride (~~PPVDF~~) (PVDF).
4. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein at least one well in a cluster of wells comprises a capture ligand for specifically binding an analyte to the membrane filter of said well.

5. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein at least two wells in a cluster of wells comprise a different amount of capture ligand for specifically binding an analyte to said membrane filter.
6. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein at least two wells in a cluster of wells comprise a different capture ligand for specifically binding an analyte to said membrane filter.
7. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 4, wherein said analyte is an infectious disease agent or an antibody there against.
8. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 1, wherein at least one cluster comprises capture ligands specific for the detection of the causative agent of scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE); chronic wasting disease and/or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.
9. (Previously Presented) Microtiter plate according to claim 8, wherein at least one cluster comprises capture ligands for the detection of prions PrP^{Sc} , PrP^{BSE} , PrP^{CWD} and/or PrP^{CJD} .
10. (Previously Presented) A method for the detection of one or more analytes in a liquid sample comprising:
- a) providing a microtiter plate according to claim 1;
 - b) applying said liquid sample to at least one cluster of wells, filtering said sample through said membrane filter, thereby binding said one or more analytes to said membrane filter or capture ligand, and optionally performing washing steps; and
 - c) detecting said bound one or more analytes in said wells by performing a binding assay on said membrane filter.
11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein said one or more analytes comprise an infectious disease agent or an antibody there against.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 11, wherein the infectious disease agent is a prion.
13. (Cancel)
14. (Cancel)
15. (New) The microtiter plate according to claim 2, wherein n is an integer of from 2 to 10.
16. (New) The microtiter plate according to claim 2, wherein n is an integer of from 2 to 10.
17. (New) Method according to claim 10, wherein the binder assay is a chemiluminescent immunoassay.
18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 12, wherein the prion is ~~an~~ a prion causing bovine spongiform encephalopathy.